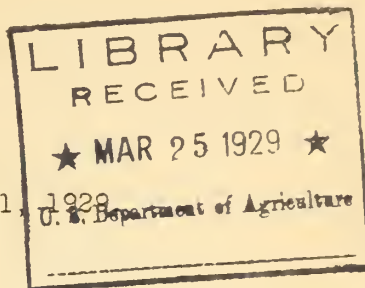


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

4527
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington



F.S.
CF-60

March 21, 1929

FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

BRITISH GRAPEFRUIT IMPORTS IN 1928

Imports of grapefruit into the United Kingdom during 1928 amounted to the equivalent of 751,000 boxes as compared with 606,000 boxes in 1927, according to statistics issued by the British Empire Marketing Board and received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The main sources of supply for the grapefruit imported into the British market are the United States, the British West Indies and British South Africa. Most of the American grapefruit shipped to the United Kingdom comes from Florida but some quantities are also shipped from California. The West Indian supplies come almost entirely from Jamaica. The South African shipments come mostly from the Transvaal and Cape Provinces. The other most important sources of supply are the Isle of Pines and Porto Rico.

United States main source of supply

The increase in imports during 1928, according to the British statistics, was due largely to heavier shipments from the United States. Imports registered as having been consigned from the United States during 1928 amounted to 592,000 boxes, or approximately 79 per cent of the total, as compared with 502,000 boxes in 1927.

In this connection it should be noted that the official figures on exports from the United States to the United Kingdom are considerably smaller than the British statistics on imports from the United States. Since both the British figures on imports from the United States and the American figures on exports to Great Britain include Porto Rican fruit and frequently some Cuban, there does not seem to be any explanation for the wide discrepancy between the American export and the British import statistics. Thus the British statistics show that imports from the United States during the five years 1924-28 averaged 326,000 boxes annually while the American statistics show that exports to the United Kingdom during that period averaged only 230,000 boxes annually. Exports to the United Kingdom from the United States, including Porto Rican fruit, amounted to 385,000 boxes in 1928 as against 421,000 boxes in 1927. This decline was the result of smaller shipments of Porto Rican fruit because of the hurricane damage.

Seasonal movement of supplies

American grapefruit is now available on the British market during practically every month of the year. South African fruit is on the market mainly from June to September and Jamaican supplies mainly from September to June. Thus it is seen that the two main Empire sources of supply are complimentary to each other. The shipping seasons of the Isle of Pines and

Porto Rico usually begin in August and end in May or June. Most of the Porto Rican fruit reaching the British market, however, is transhipped via United States ports.

British prefer smaller sizes

The hotel trade is the most important factor in the British demand for grapefruit. Most of the large hotels serve grapefruit as a "cocktail" course using glass dishes which will not hold a grapefruit larger than a 96. These containers will readily accomodate size 112 but 64's are out of the question. The smaller sizes of grapefruit for this reason are preferred in the British market. The 112 size in particular has become very popular and brings about the same price as that paid for 96's or 80's and considerably more than that paid for 64's. Such sizes as 28's to 64's should not be exported to the British market.

Statistics given in the following tables show that while imports into the United Kingdom have been increasing rapidly since 1920, the increase in imports from the United States has been much larger than from any other country. The figures also brings out the seasonal aspects of the imports from the various sources of supply and the extent to which imports from British Empire countries compete with imports from countries outside of the Empire.

GRAPEFRUIT: Imports into the United Kingdom by countries, 1920-1928

Year	: British : South : Africa	: British : West : Indies	: Other : British : countries:	: United : States	: Other : foreign : countries:	: Total
	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes
1920	2,918	4,502	677	12,821	1,056	21,974
1921	2,440	8,770	254	17,923	4,931	34,318
1922	10,216	8,854	---	30,690	800	50,560
1923	12,509	17,037	1,170	45,105	4,417	80,238
1924	15,768	15,787	925	93,690	4,017	130,187
1925	21,837	28,171	754	200,072	17,353	268,187
1926	20,997	43,486	2,688	239,848	25,939	332,958
1927	27,744	47,522	8,206	501,630	20,650	605,752
1928	26,210	50,738	6,475	592,264	75,318	751,005
:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled from Empire Marketing Board "Weekly Intelligence Notes", Vol.II, No. 48. Converted from cwt. of 112 pounds to boxes of 70 pounds.

GRAPEFRUIT: Imports into the United Kingdom, by months, 1925-1928

Month	1925	1926	1927 a/	1928
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
Jan	5,928	15,766	35,010	48,930
Feb	25,434	24,982	40,698	55,747
Mar	45,552	43,120	71,165	65,241
Apr	20,000	24,519	45,024	84,290
May	23,614	11,870	46,355	85,642
June	23,557	17,920	62,059	52,870
July	17,614	26,136	58,147	38,352
Aug	12,768	37,413	29,995	55,766
Sept	19,742	20,819	22,968	63,939
Oct	36,911	52,554	91,416	32,600
Nov	17,779	34,285	55,667	88,474
Dec	19,288	23,574	47,984	79,154
Total	268,187	332,958	606,488	751,005

Compiled from Empire Marketing Board "Weekly Fruit Intelligence Notes", Vol. II, No. 48. Converted from cwt. of 112 pounds to boxes of 70 pounds.
a/ Owing to a revision of the total figure for 1927 the total for the twelve month 1927 does not agree exactly with the figure for that year given in the first table.

GRAPEFRUIT: Imports into the United Kingdom, by countries, 1928

Month	British South Africa	British West Indies	United States and Cuba	Other countries	Total
	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
Jan	-	11,925	36,264	741	48,930
Feb	-	11,768	43,259	720	55,747
Mar	-	8,534	55,758	949	65,241
Apr	-	4,704	79,573	8	84,290
May	-	83	85,181	378	85,642
June	1,670	160	47,629	3,411	52,870
July	10,051	-	25,998	2,403	38,352
Aug	8,067	-	45,320	2,379	55,766
Sept	3,615	262	58,579	1,483	63,939
Oct	2,528	3,021	26,176	875	32,600
Nov	258	8,949	71,405	7,862	88,474
Dec	21	1,331	77,330	472	79,154
Total	26,210	50,737	652,377	21,681	751,005

Compiled from Empire Marketing Board "Weekly Fruit Intelligence Notes", Vol. II, No. 48. Converted from cwt. of 112 pounds to boxes of 70 pounds.

GRAPEFRUIT: Percentage distribution of imports into the United Kingdom,
1920-1928

Year	: From the : United States:	: From the : Empire	: From all : other sources:	: Total imports
	: Per cent	: Per cent	: Per cent	: Boxes
1920	: 58.3	: 36.9	: 4.8	: 21,974
1921	: 52.2	: 33.4	: 4.4	: 34,318
1922	: 60.7	: 37.7	: 1.6	: 50,560
1923	: 56.2	: 38.3	: 5.5	: 80,238
1924	: 71.6	: 24.9	: 3.5	: 130,187
1925	: 74.6	: 18.9	: 6.5	: 268,187
1926	: 72.0	: 20.2	: 7.8	: 332,958
1927	: 82.8	: 13.8	: 3.4	: 605,752
1928	: 78.9	: 11.1	: 10.0	: 751,005

Based on statistics published by the British Empire Marketing Board.

GRAPEFRUIT: United States exports to the United Kingdom, by months,
1924-1928

Month	: 1924	: 1925	: 1926	: 1927	: 1928
	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes	: Boxes
Jan	: 609	: 5,650	: 7,682	: 24,890	: 19,606
Feb	: 1,860	: 21,913	: 18,242	: 31,492	: 18,606
Mar	: 7,721	: 25,458	: 16,536	: 50,643	: 39,327
Apr	: 7,001	: 24,383	: 18,134	: 47,402	: 54,609
May	: 3,026	: 17,123	: 12,569	: 35,646	: 54,965
June	: 6,605	: 6,525	: 16,169	: 51,513	: 33,841
July	: 3,028	: 5,502	: 28,469	: 26,479	: 25,409
Aug	: 620	: 4,410	: 5,106	: 7,577	: 23,676
Sept	: 783	: 5,945	: 8,517	: 24,751	: 3,092
Oct	: 5,669	: 5,907	: 4,814	: 47,909	: 10,886
Nov	: 6,700	: 6,420	: 14,221	: 36,188	: 54,066
Dec	: 4,198	: 12,064	: 7,121	: 36,154	: 47,092
Total	: 47,720	: 141,300	: 157,580	: 420,644	: 385,175

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

